Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (***original***) A method for the early determination of the risk of mortality of patients in intensive care units for whom the clinical diagnosis is sepsis, severe sepsis or septic shock, wherein the concentration of Cu/Zn SOD is selectively determined in a serum or plasma sample of such a patient by means of an immunochemical assay method specific for Cu/Zn superoxide dismutase (Cu/Zn SOD or SOD-1) and concentrations which are above a predetermined cut-off are correlated with a high risk of mortality.

2. (***original***) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specific immunochemical assay method is a ligand binding assay of the competitive type or sandwich type.

3. (***original***) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ligand binding assay is a homogeneous or heterogeneous immunoassay of the sandwich type, in which at least one marked monoclonal or polyclonal antibody is used for detecting Cu/Zn SOD and the marking is selected from radioisotope, fluorescence, chemiluminescence and enzyme marking and direct optically detectable dye particles.

4. (***original***) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a value of 310 ng/ml or more is chosen as the optimal cut-off for the measured Cu/Zn SOD concentration.

5. (***currently amended***) The method as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 4, which is carried out as part of a multiparameter determination in which a quantitative or qualitative determination of at least one further sepsis prognosis parameter is effected at the same time.

6. (***original***) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein at least one further parameter which is selected from the group which consists of procalcitonin, CA 19-9, CA 125, S100B, S100A proteins, soluble cytokeratin fragments, in particular CYFRA 21, TPS and/or

soluble cytokeratin-1 fragments (sCY1F), the peptide inflammin, CHP, LASP-1, GNAT, mutarotase, CPS 1 and the peptide prohormones proANP, proBNP, proADM and the C-reactive protein (CRP) is determined as part of the multiparameter determination in addition to Cu/Zn SOD.

7. (***currently amended***) The method as claimed in claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein the multiparameter determination is effected as a simultaneous determination by means of a chip technology measuring apparatus or an immunochromatographic measuring apparatus.

8. (***original***) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the evaluation of the complex result of the measurement obtained using the measuring apparatus is effected with the aid of a computer program.

9. (***currently amended***) The method as claimed in ~~any of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 3~~, which is carried out as an immunochromatographic point-of-care method (accelerated test).